



In the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Serial Number: 09/837,314

Appn. Filed: 04/19/2001

Applicant(s): Kevin Kawakita

Appn. Title: Lights-On Headlight Indicator For Automobiles and
Trucks

RECEIVED

Examiner/GAU: Mr. Kenneth Bloomberg/3754

MAR 17 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Mailed: _____

At: _____

REMARKS TO OFFICE ACTION DATED

FEBRUARY 10, 2004

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, District of Columbia 20231

Dear Mr. Bloomberg:

In response to the office letter mailed February 10, 2004, the inventor's remarks are as follows:

The original claims 1 - 32 were held by the patent examiner to be pending due to non-election of a specific patentable invention embodiment apparently from the submitted patent drawings which depict three distinctly patentable inventions. The inventor accepts this objection and to overcome this

objection, the inventor has reduced the invention from three possible
invention ~~embodiments~~ ^{KK 3/16/2004} down to one combined invention ~~embodiment~~ ^{KK} without
adding any new technical material. This has necessitated the filing of a
revised patent specification, revised claims, and revised patent drawings.

Very Respectfully,



Signed Name

KEVIN KAWAKITA

Printed Name, First Applicant

5812 TEMPLE CITY BL #000
TEMPLE CITY, CA 91780

Address of First Applicant



Signed Name

Printed Name, Joint Applicant

Address of Joint Applicant

In the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Serial Number: 09/837,314
Appn. Filed: 04/04/19/2001
Applicant(s): KEVIN KAWAKITA
Appn. Title: LIGHTS-ON INDICATOR FOR AUTOMOBILES & TRUCKS
Examiner/GAU: MR. KENNETH BLOMBERG 13754
Mailed: 3/10/2004
At: _____

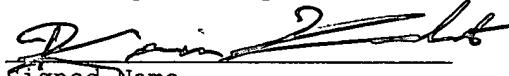
Request for Approval of Proposed Drawing Amendment
No. _____

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 222313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Applicant(s) respectfully request(s) permission to amend the drawing(s) of the above application after allowance. The proposed changes are indicated in red in the photocopy(ies) of Fig.(s) 24 or sheets 24 thereof attached below.

Very Respectfully,



Signed Name



Signed Name

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Certificate of Mailing

I certify that this correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with proper postage affixed in an envelope addressed to: "Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231" on the date below.

Date 20 04 MAR 08 10 Applicant



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MAR 17 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

LIGHTS-ON HEADLIGHT INDICATOR

FOR AUTOMOBILES

AND TRUCKS

(Rev. 2.00)

March 3, 2004

by

Kevin Kawakita

Presented to the United States Patent Office (USPTO)

as

Amendment A (Amend A)

FIELD OF INVENTION

Automotive after-market, plastic products which give augmented functions. e.g. Driver consoles, plastic trash dispensers, add-on television monitors, fast food eating trays, etc.

Automotive after-market recreational transport products which give additional customized transport use to vehicles. e.g. bike roof racks, trailor hitch attached trailors, etc.

BACKGROUND

This invention relates to a mechanical add-on device for existing automobiles, trucks, recreational vehicles, and suburban vehicles to warn the driver of some auxiliary equipment condition which is not covered in the built-in instrument panel through the use of a user pre-selected variably selectable label which simply flips into readable driver's view with the motion of using the instrument stalk and then flips out of driver's view with the instrument stalk's de-activation twisting motion. e.g. to warn the driver with a 'LIGHTS-ON!!!!' interchangeable label of headlights on in the day-light especially for older makes and models with no electronic detection and electronic warning buzzer equipment. e.g. to warn the driver of a 'BICYCLES-ON!!!!' inter-changeable label for a loaded over-head bicycle rack or other form of sports equipment so loaded. e.g. to warn the driver of a 'TRAILOR-ON!!!!' inter-changeable label for a low trailer or else an unloaded trailer attached to the back of the vehicle which is difficult to see from the rear-view mirror or might be forgotten while driving.

A need exists for an add-on product daylight headlight on indicator after automobile and truck ignitions are turned off to avoid unwanted battery draining while the driver is in or away from the vehicle and totally unaware that his headlights are still on draining battery power. The problem is especially acute after the driver leaves the vehicle with the headlights on especially in the daytime (e.g.

after emerging to daylight from underground parking garages or in light daylight sprinkles or in light fog) and comes back to find that his vehicle will not start due to a drained battery. This situation happens often in the daytime after drivers exit underground parking structures with their headlights on, and also after daytime rain bursts or early morning fog requires use of headlights in the daytime. The often used but not standard for all makes and models right side, headlight control and turn indicator instrument stalk which often holds a twist-knob headlight control along with its tiny 'active bar - OFF, PARKING, HIGH' label (LO beams are often obtained by a stalk forward driver motion) which is often hidden from view by the driver by the steering wheel. The instrument stalk must be artificially extended by the invention to give instrument status with a label readable beyond the steering wheel without blocking driver entry and exit. Night-time incidents of headlights left on after drivers exit vehicles are rare because the headlight beams of light still activated are clearly noticeably by the driver when exiting the car.

Some makes and models of vehicles use an instrument panel light control rotary knob with a dimmer switch position. This invention was not intended for these makes and models. Recent makes with electronic vehicle computer head-light controls automatically turn the head-lights off at car ignition termination, not requiring this invention. Some makes and models of vehicles use a right stalk twist head-light control instead of a left-stalk twist head-light control. This invention will work with these makes and models in mirror-image design with the stalk twist label, but, without need for the hanging ball which hits the

driver's leg upon door exit reminder only on left-stalk twist head-light controls. Some makes and models of older vehicles use an instrument panel series of radio type push buttons for head-light control. This invention will not work with these makes and models.

The device should be low-cost, post-factory equipped better known as an 'add-on' product as the main market is older make and older model vehicles with no electronic detection driver assists such as chimes or buzzers. The device should be energy efficient, should not interfere with any vehicle instrument use, and should not interfere with driver entry and exit from the vehicle.

~~A variable user selected label such as "BICYCLES ON!!!!" first alternative embodiment for the invention is for a warning indicator for overhead (roof-rack), vehicle sports rack users (e.g. Yakima (R) or Thule (R)) warning them that their vehicle overhead clearance is greatly increased by bicycles, kayaks, sport's cargo containers, windsurfing boards, surf boards. Overhead vehicle sports rack users carrying very tall overhead sports items such as bicycles, forget the items are there because they are out of driver's sight when inside the vehicle. The tragic result is that drivers quite often crash expensive sport's items such as two racing bicycles costing \$1000 each into garage door lowered overhangs. A 'bicycles on' warning indicator would be greatly appreciated to warn them that their overhead car clearance is greatly increased when entering garages with low roofs and low overhead clearance parking structures.~~

Many over-head sport's equipment racks used on vehicles do not give a good driver indication that the rack is in use as in over-head expensive racing bicycle storage often resulting in the damage to two expensive US \$500 racing bicycles or off-road ("mountain") bicycles.

Many towed trailer's using standard trailer hitches are low to the ground and cannot be seen in the driver's rear-view mirror if not loaded such as in motorcycle trailers, jet-ski trailers. Damage to the trailer can result when the driver simply forgets that an empty trailer is being pulled behind his vehicle.

Public Domain Use

Almost every one of the latest model vehicles produced after 1990 have electronically controlled headlights under control of the car's engine computer. The headlights are automatically turned on during both the daytime and night-time for road safety purposes and automatically shut-off after the ignition is turned off. Automatic car computer monitoring also occurs for the ignition key left in only when the driver's side door is opened.

Older vehicles produced before 1990 included lights-on headlight audible chiming or buzzer warnings when the driver's door is opened only in the luxury model makes for most brands. If the driver opened the driver's door and exited the vehicle with the headlight still on, a chiming circuit would start a chiming noise until the driver's side door was closed or the headlight was turned off. This chime would warn the driver of a headlight left on upon driver exit from the vehicle. The same chiming circuit would also warn the driver of a vehicle key still in the ignition upon driver exit from the vehicle. A driver's side door open spring-loaded electrical switch on the driver's door would open loop circuit trigger the chiming circuit only if either a separate loop circuit for the key in the ignition produced a closed circuit or else if a separate loop circuit for the headlight turned to the on position produced an open circuit.

Older vehicles produced before 1990 especially in the non-luxury models for most domestic US makes and foreign makes, had no chiming

circuits to warn of headlights left on and vehicle keys left in the ignition switch upon driver's door opening and driver exit from the vehicle. Many of these vehicles are still in use on US roads. Many of these older vehicles are currently sent overseas for use in less developed countries.

Older vehicles produced before 1980 in both the luxury and non-luxury car models and truck models for all makes had no chiming circuits to warn of either headlights left on or else of vehicle keys left in the ignition switch upon driver door open and driver exit from the vehicle. Many of these older vehicles are valuable collector's items or antiques, memory lane collector's cars, and many are still in daily use in foreign countries.

There is still a need for an add-on product, lights-on headlight indicator for older vehicles produced before 1990 in the non-luxury car model classes for all makes. All vehicles of all makes and all models produced before 1980 can still use such an invention as the lights on problem is quite frequent and irritating for even the best of drivers resulting in a dead battery and a tow-truck call.

~~A 1st alternative An alternative use with a different customer selectable "BICYCLES ON!!!!" label for the invention is for use as an "in-use indicator" for sports equipment on top of a car sport's roof rack or truck/ATV sports equipment roof rack or camping equipment vehicle/ATV roof rack. All prior art overhead roof racks with sports equipment in use indicator warnings are electronic in nature and must~~

be built in the vehicle by the auto manufacturer at the factory. The resulting problem of the driver not visibly seeing and forgetting about his over-head roof rack in use especially with tall objects such as racing bicycles is that he will drive the tall object directly into a low overhang such as his own garage door overhang or into a parking structure low overhang. The expensive sport's equipment can be destroyed with several thousand US dollar damage to the equipment and even to the vehicle's roof. The difference with usage of this sport's equipment auxiliary instrument indicator versus a head-lights on auxiliary indicator is that the latter is correlated in position with the actions of the twist instrument stalk, while the former while require the active use of a twist instrument stalk which might normally be in use such as a head-light on in the day-time. An optional snap-on additional twist knob with label unit used as a second twist knob with space for an attachable and easily replaceable label which does not move in correlation with the twist instrument stalk due to a rotational joint is possible.

US Patent No. 4,105,898

Patent Issued To: Farler, et al.

Patent Assigned To: None

Patent Issue Date: August 8, 1978

Patent Application Filing Date: September 19, 1975

This Farler patent concerns a combined automotive headlight control knob which incorporates not only on/parking lights on/headlight beam on, but, also hi-beam/low-beam control through an electrical interface.

The Farler patent is not related to my invention.

US Patent No. 5,438,314

Patent Issued To: Evans, Harold A.

Patent Assigned To: None

Patent Issue Date: August 1, 1995

Patent Application Filing Date: March 31, 1993

This Evans patent concerns a turn indicator control mechanism with variable rates of turn flashing and automatic turn flash shut-off after a vehicle turn is completed.

The Evans patent is not related to my invention.

US Patent No. 6,012,736

Patent Issued To: Hansen, et al.

Patent Assigned To: Eaton Corporation (Cleveland, OH)

Patent Issue Date: January 11, 2000

Patent Application Filing Date: December 1, 1998

This Hansen patent concerns an electronic digital control circuit mechanism for use in a steering wheel control mechanism for multiple uses of air bag firing remotely triggered by the separate automobile crash sensor computer, turn indicators for turn indicator control, headlight control and hi/low beam activation, horn control.

The Hansen patent is not related to my invention.

OBJECT AND ADVANTAGES OF
ALL EMBODIMENTS

- A. An object of the preferred embodiment is to be a post-factory equipped or add-on product.
- B. An object of the preferred embodiment is to be an extremely low cost and easy to install add-on invention.
- C. An object of the preferred embodiment is to not interfere in any way with vehicle instrument operation.
- D. An object of the preferred embodiment is to not interfere in any way with driver entry and exit from the vehicle.
- E. An object of the 1st alternative preferred embodiment of the invention with a different user selectable label labeled "BICYCLE ON!!!!" is to act as a warning indicator for roof-top sports equipment racks warning the driver that sports equipment such as bicycles are mounted overhead which is not always obvious when they are hidden from driver's view.
- F. An object of the 1st alternative embodiment of the invention is to offer a snap-on the end twist label which attaches to the outermost end of an already installed unit to give a two-label unit

with the outermost label indicator activity revealed in a driver twist
motion which is fully independent of the instrument stalk motion
followed by the innermost label.

SUMMARY OF PATENT

This invention in its preferred embodiment specifies a customer variable selectable label such as lights-on headlight indicator to the driver of vehicles. The invention will be especially useful to the drivers of older model (pre-1990), economy cars of all makes which do not have built-in electronic circuitry to accomplish this goal.

A 1st alternative embodiment use of a different customer selectable label saying "BICYCLES-ON!!!!" will warn drivers of vehicles using overhead mounted, vehicle sports racks that tall sports equipment items such as bicycles are stored overhead. This will help prevent collisions between the sports equipment and low overhead clearance spaces such as garage doors and low overhead parking structures.

A different user selectable label saying "TRAILER-ON!!!!" will give an indication of an empty trailer being towed behind the vehicle.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF
THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the preferred embodiment of the lights-on, headlight indicator, post-factory installed ('add-on') in a vehicle in the head lights on position.

Figure 2 shows the preferred embodiment of the lights-on, headlight indicator, post-factory installed in a vehicle in the head lights-off position.

Figure 3 shows the 1st-alternative preferred embodiment of the "bicycles-on", overhead sports rack loaded indicator post-factory installed in a vehicle in the "bicycles-on" position.

Figure 4 shows the 1st alternative embodiment of the "bicycles-on", overhead sports rack loaded indicator post-factory installed in a vehicle in the "bicycles-on" position which allows a different auxiliary equipment active position than what is indicated by the instrument stalk's inherent readings such as headlights-on.

LIST OF PART NUMBERS IN THE
PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

100. lights on assembly

104. rubber cap for instrument stalk

different diameters supplied for different makes and models of cars on one end nearest the steering wheel with a standard diameter on the other end away from the steering wheel.

A kit of several caps will give the correct diameter for any make and model of car.

106. stalk extender sections

plastic snap-on extender sections to extend a twist-control headlight control stalk beyond the steering wheel such that it is not hidden from line of sight by the particular drivers of the car

108. lights on label

is driver(s) line of sight visible and fully driver readable with the head-light control twisted on and hidden from the driver and only partially driver readable when the head-light control is twisted off.

130. bicycles on label

This label indicates that a bicycle(s) or else sporting goods equipment such as skis, canoes, kayaks, tote tops are on top of an over-head rack.

134. trailer on label

This label indicates that a unloaded trailer is being towed behind the vehicle.

112. snap-on twistable end with ball shelf

~~The ball shelf is in a gravity counteracting horizontal shelf position dependent upon instrument stalk motion when the head light control is twisted on and in a free fall vertical shelf position dependent upon instrument stalk motion when the head light control is twisted off. Holds the lights on label (108).~~

116. ball string

~~(optional) the adjustable length ball string attaches the fuzzy lights on ball (124) to the snap-on twistable end with ball shelf (112).~~

120. ball string length adjustor

~~(optional) the figure eight string holder adjusts the length of the ball string (116).~~

~~124. the fuzzy lights on ball~~

~~(optional) the fuzzy lights on ball which has the 'Lights On!!!!' label is kept in the snap on twistable end with ball shelf (112) when the headlight stalk control is twisted off. When the headlight stalk control is twisted on, the fuzzy ball falls under gravity having the ball shelf in the gravity freefall position. The fuzzy lights on ball will hit the driver's leg when he exits the vehicle with the driver's side door open. The driver will be reminded to turn off the headlights in daylight and he will return the fuzzy lights on ball to the snap on twistable end with ball shelf (112) with the ball shelf now in the gravity counter position.~~

ADDITIONAL PART NUMBERS
USED ONLY IN THE 1ST ALTERNATIVE
EMBODIMENT

~~800. bicycles on assembly~~

~~804. rubber cap for instrument stalk~~

~~different diameters supplied for different makes and models of cars on one end nearest the steering wheel with a standard diameter on the other end away from the steering wheel.~~

~~A kit of several caps will give the correct diameter for any make and model of car.~~

~~812. bicycles on label~~

~~used instead of the "Lights On!!!!!" label with the words, "Bicycles On!!!!". Has the alternative meaning of sport's equipment (e.g. kayaks, surfboards, sport's container bins, travel bins) upon a sport's roof rack instead of bicycles.~~

~~816. snap-on extender for two label use~~

~~enables optional use of an additional 'bicycles-on' label twist unit which is dependent upon instrument stalk twist~~

position along with a 'trailer-on' label twist unit which is independent of the instrument stalk twist position.

~~820. snap on end with ball shelf~~

~~The ball shelf position is independent of the instrument stalk twist position. If the driver hand twists the unit to the gravity countering horizontal shelf position independent of the head light control then the driver can place the ball on the shelf. If the driver hand twists the unit to the gravity free fall vertical shelf position independent of the head light control, then the ball will dangle and hit his leg upon car exit. Holds the bicycle on label (812).~~

NOT PART OF THE INVENTION

800. vehicle steering wheel

804. vehicle left control stalk

usually used for headlights twist knob, right turn stalk up, left turn stalk down, high beam stalk forward, low beam stalk backwards. Different makes, models, and different years have different uses and different motions.

A right stalk kit or mirror-image part left stalk kit should work for any make or model of vehicle using instrument stalks.

812. vehicle right control stalk

usually used for wiper speed/intermittent wiper speed/on/off twist knob, cruise control speed up stalk up (spring loaded), cruise control speed down stalk down (spring loaded), cruise control on tip of stalk button in, front windshield washer fluid manual squirt is spring loaded stalk to front. Different makes, models, and different years have different uses and different motions. A right stalk kit or a mirror-image part left stalk kit should work for any make or model using instrument stalks.

816. driver's left hand

820. steering wheel horn

824.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF
AND OPERATION OF THE DRAWINGS -
PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Figure 1 shows the preferred embodiment of the lights-on, headlight indicator, post-factory installed in a vehicle in the lights-on position.

Figure 2 shows the preferred embodiment of the lights-on, headlight indicator, post-factory installed in a vehicle in the lights-off position.

Figure 3 shows the ~~first alternative~~ preferred embodiment of the bicycles-on, overhead sports rack loaded indicator post-factory installed in a vehicle in the "bicycles-on" label showing warning position.

ADVANTAGES OF
THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

A. An advantage of the preferred embodiment is to be an after factory-equipped or add-on product.

This advantage is accomplished by the rubber cap for instrument stalk (104) available in different stalk diameters for different makes and models of vehicles, the stalk extender sections (106), the lights on label (108), and the snap-on twistable end with ball shelf (112).

A variable user selected label such as "BICYCLES-ON!!!!" first alternative embodiment for the invention is for a warning indicator for overhead (roof-rack), vehicle sports rack users (e.g. Yakima (R) or Thule (R)) warning them that their vehicle overhead clearance is greatly increased by bicycles, kayaks, sport's cargo containers, windsurfing boards, surf-boards. Overhead vehicle sports rack users carrying very tall overhead sports items such as bicycles, forget the items are there because they are out of driver's sight when inside the vehicle. The tragic result is that drivers quite often crash expensive sport's items such as two racing bicycles costing \$1000 each into garage door lowered over-hangs. A 'bicycles-on' warning indicator would be greatly appreciated to warn them that their overhead car clearance is greatly increased when entering garages with low roofs and low overhead clearance parking structures.

A variable user selectable label saying "TRAILOR-ON!!!!" can warn the driver about an unloaded trailer on the vehicle which is hard to see from the rear-view mirror.

B. An advantage of the preferred embodiment is to be extremely low cost and easy to install.

This advantage is accomplished by the rubber cap for instrument stalk (104) available in different stalk diameters, the stalk extender sections (106), the lights on label (108), and the snap-on twistable end with ball shelf (112).

C. An advantage of the preferred embodiment is to not interfere in any way with instrument operation.

This is accomplished by the add-on nature of the invention. The mechanical placement of the invention is such that it does not interfere with driver movements.

D. An advantage of the preferred embodiment is to not interfere in any way with driver entry and exit from the vehicle.

The driver exit from the vehicle is deliberately interfered with only when the driver exits the vehicle with the head-lights still on as indicated by the fuzzy lights on ball (124) hitting his leg.

E. An advantage of the preferred embodiment of the invention with a different user selectable label labeled "BICYCLE ON!!!!" is to act as a warning indicator for roof-top sports equipment racks warning the driver that sports equipment such as bicycles are mounted overhead which is not always obvious when they are hidden from driver's view.

Many a roof-top sports equipment rack owner has lost two expensive racing bikes valued at \$1000 a piece to a collision with a garage door or a low entry parking structure because he simply forgot that the bicycles were on top of his vehicle. The invention can simply be twisted-on by the vehicle driver along with the vehicle head-lights when a bicycle is loaded upon the roof car rack, with the instrument stalk moved to the head-lights off position when the bicycle is unloaded from the roof car rack.

DETAILED DRAWINGS AND DESCRIPTION FOR THE 1ST
ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENT

Figure 4 shows the 1st alternative embodiment of the "bicycles-on", overhead sports rack loaded indicator post-factory installed in a vehicle in the "bicycles-on" position which allows a different auxiliary equipment active position than what is indicated by the instrument stalk's inherent readings such as headlights-on.

ADVANTAGES FOR THE
1ST ALTERNATIVE EMBODIMENT

F. An advantage of the 1st alternative embodiment of the invention is to offer a snap-on the end twist label which attaches to the outermost end of an already installed unit to give a two-label unit with the outermost label indicator activity revealed in a driver twist motion which is fully independent of the instrument stalk motion followed by the innermost label.

An alternative use with a different customer selectable "BICYCLES-ON!!!!" label for the invention is for use as an "in use indicator" for sports equipment on top of a car sport's roof rack or truck/ATV sports equipment roof rack or camping equipment vehicle/ATV roof rack. All prior art overhead roof racks with sports equipment in use indicator warnings are electronic in nature and must be built-in the vehicle by the auto manufacturer at the factory. The resulting problem of the driver not visibly seeing and forgetting about his over-head roof rack in use especially with tall objects such as racing bicycles is that he will drive the tall object directly into a low overhang such as his own garage door overhang or into a parking structure low overhang. The expensive sport's equipment can be destroyed with several thousand US dollar damage to the equipment and even to the vehicle's roof. The difference with usage of this sport's equipment auxiliary instrument indicator versus a head-lights on auxiliary indicator is that the latter is correlated in position with the actions of the twist

instrument stalk, while the former while require the active use of a twist instrument stalk which might normally be in use such as a headlight on in the day-time. An optional snap-on additional twist knob with label unit used as a second twist knob with space for an attachable and easily replaceable label which does not move in correlation with the twist instrument stalk due to a rotational joint is possible.

Figure 3 shows the 1st alternative embodiment of the bicycles-on overhead sports rack loaded indicator post-factory installed in a vehicle in the "bicycles-on" position.

This 1st alternative embodiment for overhead sports rack in use indication can be used on newer vehicles on the left driver stalk usually holding the headlight control (twist control) and the turn control (left turn is down and right turn is up), since, the engine control computer will do monitoring of vehicle headlights left on, and ignition keys left in the ignition conditions upon driver exit from the vehicle.

On older vehicles, this 1st alternative embodiment for bicycle-on label (812) or else with the dual meaning of overhead sports rack in use indication can be used in addition to a preferred embodiment lights-on label (108) indicator if the snap-on extender for two label use (816) is used. The right side stalk is used for different things by different vehicle manufacturers. Usually the right side stalk

~~twist action is used for windshield wiper and windshield washer fluid control.~~

ADVANTAGES OF THE 1ST ALTERNATIVE

EMBODIMENT

E. An advantage of the first alternative

~~embodiment is to act as a warning indicator for roof-top sports equipment racks warning the driver that sports equipment such as bicycles are mounted overhead which is not always obvious when they are hidden from driver's view.~~

~~Many a roof-top sports equipment rack owner has lost two expensive racing bikes valued at \$1000 a piece to a collision with a garage door opening or a low entry parking structure because he simply forgot that the bicycles were on top of his vehicle.~~

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RAMIFICATIONS,
& SCOPE

- A. This invention in the preferred embodiment is an after factory-equipped or add-on product.
- B. This invention in the preferred embodiment is extremely low cost and easy to install.
- C. This invention in preferred embodiment does not interfere in any way with instrument operation.
- D. This invention in the preferred embodiment does not interfere in any way with driver entry and exit from the vehicle.
- E. This invention in the first alternative embodiment acts as a warning indicator for roof-top sports equipment racks warning the driver that sports equipment such as bicycles are mounted overhead which is not always obvious when they are hidden from driver's view.

~~Many a roof-top sports equipment rack owner has lost two expensive racing bikes valued at \$1000 a piece to a collision with a garage door or a low entry parking structure because he simply forgot that the bicycles were on top of his vehicle.~~

F. This intention in its 1st alternative embodiment is able to offer a snap-on the end twist label which attaches to the outermost end of an already installed unit to give a two-label unit with the outermost label indicator activity revealed in a driver twist motion which is fully independent of the instrument stalk motion followed by the innermost label.

These descriptions serve as only a few examples of some of the many embodiments of the invention. Given this description, many other embodiments of the invention are possible and become obvious to a craftsman of average skill having knowledge of all prior art and public art. For example, the attachment position of the lights on label (108) upon the snap-on twistable end with ball shelf (112) can be changed from label sticking up from the front side to label sticking down from the front side to label sticking down from the back side to label sticking down from the back side. Different attachment positions have different implications for obstructing driver manual access and driver line of sight view access to instruments, for blocking driver view of the label by the steering wheel, for blocking driver view of the label by other instruments, as well as for interfering with easy driver entry and exit from the vehicle. Different materials may be used instead of rubber and plastic with different costs and durability's especially regarding ultra-violet light and extreme heat break-down of materials. Schedule 40 poly-vinyl chloride (PVC) is designed for high ultra-violet light endurance which breaks down most plastic products over time. The left instrument stalk can be switched to the symmetric right instrument

stalk with the use of mirror-image designed parts for the invention. A left side instrument stalk can be supplemented by a right side instrument stalk mirror-image product for additional use such as a sports roof-top rack indicator.

This description and the specific embodiments mentioned herein should not serve as a limitation of the number of embodiments under potential protection and coverage by this patent, rather, the accompanying patent claims shall serve as the sole means of deciding the scope of embodiments legally covered under this patent.

CLAIMS

I wish to substitute in entirely claims numbered 1 - 19 with claims numbered 20 - 40:

1). The invention of this patent is a form of add-on product for vehicles with a twist stalk instrument control which is composed of the elements of:

— an instrument stalk end mounting device,

— a stalk extender device with means to make the label clearly visible to the driver at line of sight from the individual driver's head position,

— a twistable label holder device which is non-independent in twisting motion from the instrument stalk twisting motion with means to indicate instrument stalk status with the label,

— a label for use with the twistable label holder device with means to give driver indication by label when twisted to the instrument on stalk position and which label is hidden from driver line of sight view when twisted to the instrument off stalk position,

with means for giving to drivers an augmented and more reliable control indicator for leaving their vehicle with the head-lights still on especially in the day-time.

2. The invention of claim 1 whereby the instrument stalk first end mounting device has interchangeable parts with different diameters with means to fit different makes and models of vehicles with a second end or an opposing end standard diameter with means for further attachment devices.

3. The invention of claim 1 whereby the stalk extender device is composed of snap-on part extensions which first end means of attachment upon the instrument stalk end mounting's outer-most standard diameter, with the second end or opposing end also having a snap-on part extension with means for individual driver customized stalk length extension beyond driver line of sight blockage by the steering wheel.

4. The invention of claim 1 whereby the twistable label holder snaps onto the second end of the outwards most stalk extender device's standard diameter, and furthermore has a ball shelf which is in the gravity counter, horizontal shelf position at the instrument off stalk twist position, and furthermore the shelf is in the gravity free fall, vertical shelf position at the instrument on stalk twist position.

5. The invention of claim 4 whereby the twistable label holder with ball shelf has an optional ball attached by two ends of an adjustable length string which ball drops down with gravity when the vertical shelf position is active with means for hitting the driver's leg upon vehicle exit, furthermore said ball must at that time be restored to the ball shelf in the gravity counter horizontal shelf position only obtained when the driver restores the instrument stalk to the twist off position.

6. The invention of claim 1 whereby the label gives lights on instrument status which is placed visible to the driver in the instrument on stalk twist position and furthermore, the label is not visible to the driver at the instrument off stalk twist position.

7. The invention of claim 1 whereby the instrument stalk first end mounting device has interchangeable parts with different diameters with means to fit different makes and models of vehicles with a second end or an opposing end standard diameter with means for further attachment devices.

8. The invention of claim 7 whereby the stalk extender device is composed of snap-on part extensions which first end means of attachment upon the instrument stalk end mounting's outer most standard diameter, with the second end or opposing end also having a snap-on part extension with means for individual driver customized stalk length extension beyond driver line of sight blockage by the steering wheel.

9. The invention of claim 7 whereby the twistable label holder snaps onto the second end of the outwards most stalk extender device's standard diameter.

10. The invention of claim 9 whereby the twistable label holder twists in dependent motion with the instrument stalk with means for giving instrument stalk status.

11. The invention of claim 7 whereby the label gives lights on instrument status which is placed fully visible to the driver in the instrument on stalk twist position and furthermore, the label is not

~~fully visible to the driver at the instrument off stalk twist position.~~

12). The invention of this patent is a form of add-on product for the first alternative embodiment for vehicles with a sport's equipment roof rack carrying items such as bicycles with a twist stalk instrument control which is composed of the elements of:

an instrument stalk end mounting device,

a stalk extender device to make the label visible to the driver from variable line of sight of his head past the steering wheel,

a twistable label holder device with means for holding a label to indicate sport's roof-top rack active use whose twisting motion is independent from the twisting motion of the instrument stalk with means for having no logical connection to the instrument stalk status,

a label for use with the twistable label holder device with means to give driver indication of sport's roof-top rack active use when twisted on totally independent of the instrument on twisted stalk position and which label is hidden from driver view when twisted to the off position which is also totally independent of the instrument off twisted stalk position,

with means for giving the drivers an augmented and more reliable control indicator for reminding drivers that a sports roof-rack still has items attached and loaded such as a first means of bicycles, a

~~second means of sports equipment loaded which might collide with a low overhang such as a garage door or underground parking overhang.~~

~~13. The invention of claim 12 whereby the instrument stalk end mounting device's first end has interchangeable parts with different diameters to fit different makes and models of vehicles with the second end or opposing end being of a standard diameter with a snap-on end.~~

~~14. The invention of claim 12 whereby the stalk extender device is composed of multiple snap-on part length modular extensions of a standard diameter which first end attach upon the second end of the instrument stalk end mounting device with a standard diameter.~~

~~15. The invention of claim 12 whereby a twistable two label holder snaps onto the outwards most stalk extender device's second end with means for the first position twist label holder without a ball shelf to hold a 'lights on!!!!' type of label fully visible to the driver when in the instrument on dependent to the stalk twist position and is not fully visible to the driver when in the instrument off dependent to the stalk twist position, while, the second position twist label holder for a sports equipment loaded label has the due indicator use which uses independent twist motion to the instrument stalk twist position.~~

~~16. The invention of claim 12 whereby a twistable label holder with ball shelf snaps onto the standard diameter of the second end or~~

outwards end of the outermost stalk extender device and has a ball shelf which is furthermore in the gravity counteracting horizontal shelf twist position independent of the instrument off stalk twist position, and is furthermore in the gravity free fall vertical shelf twist position independent of the instrument on stalk twist position with means for use as a sport's equipment loaded indicator only.

17. The invention of claim 16 whereby the twistable label holder with ball shelf has an optional dangling ball attached with the two ends of an adjustable length string which drops down with gravity from a vertical ball shelf position with means for hitting the driver's leg upon vehicle exit, which ball must at that time be driver restored to the horizontal ball shelf in the gravity counter twist position obtained independently of the instrument stalk position.

18. The invention of claim 17 whereby the ball is attached by an adjustable length string to the twistable label holder with ball shelf.

19. The invention of claim 16 whereby the label indicates sports equipment on status with means for being clearly readable by the driver in the twist on position which is independent of the instrument on stalk twist position, furthermore with means for having letters not being fully readable by the driver at the twist off position which is independent of the instrument off stalk twist position.

20. The invention of this patent is a form of add-on product for vehicles with a twist stalk instrument control which comprises the elements of:

an instrument stalk end mounting device whose first end attaches to the already existing steering wheel stalk and whose second end is of a standard size made to attach with means for use of a snap-on mechanism to a stalk extender device with twistable label holder,

said stalk extender device with twistable label holder whose first end snap-on attaches to the second end of said instrument stalk end's mounting device and furthermore, whose second end is also equipped with a means for attachment with first example means being a cap with a snap-on end attachment surface, furthermore with driver motion means for making the label clearly visible in line of sight to the driver from the individual driver's head position, furthermore which has an integral label holder device which furthermore, twists with the part's label holder device which in turn is non-independent in twisting motion from the instrument stalk twisting motion with means to indicate instrument stalk status regarding auxiliary equipment with the label,

a label with means for attachment to said stalk extender device with twistable label holder which said label has means to give the driver in line of sight an indication by said label when twisted to the instrument on stalk position, and which said label is hidden from driver line of sight view when twisted to the instrument off stalk position,

with means for giving to drivers an augmented and more reliable fully reversible control indicator active status.

21. The invention of claim 1 whereby said instrument stalk end mounting device upon its first end has variable sized diameters in different supplied pieces with means for fitting to different makes and models of vehicles, furthermore with the second end or the opposing end being of standard diameter with means for further connecting further standard sized attachment devices as in example means being a snap-on end.

22. The invention of claim 1 whereby said stalk extender device with twistable label holder is composed with means for snap-on part length extensions which first end means of attachment upon the instrument stalk end mounting's outer-most standard diameter, with the second end or opposing end also having means for a snap-on part extension with means for individual driver customized stalk length extension beyond driver line of sight blockage by the steering wheel.

23. The invention of claim 1 whereby said stalk extender

with twistable label holder uses a towards the vehicle ceiling end slotted and clear and transparent plastic sleeve to gravity hold in expected use positions the active user selectable label which may have more than one available label contained at all times inside of the sleeve stored behind the actively used and exposed label.

24. The invention of claim 1 whereby said label gives label indicator active instrument status which is placed visible to the driver in line of sight view only while in the stalk twist active position which indicates that both the stalk controlled intended instrument and the auxiliary instrument are active, furthermore, the label is not visible in line of sight to the driver at stalk twist position inactive position which indicates that both the stalk controlled instrument and the auxiliary instrument are inactive.

25. The invention of this patent is a form of add-on product for vehicles with a twist stalk instrument control which comprises the elements of:

an instrument stalk end mounting device whose first end is of variable sized diameters to fit to different diameter stalks on different makes and models of vehicles, furthermore, its second end is of a standard size to accept standard extension parts,

a stalk extender device with twistable label holder whose first end attaches to the second end of said instrument stalk end mounting device and whose second end has further means for standard diameter attachment snap-on joint points, with means for the stalk controlled instrument active position also being the auxiliary equipment label active position thus making said label clearly visible to the driver at line of sight from the individual driver's head position, furthermore, said stalk extender device has an integral twistable label holder device with means for holding the label in an interchangeable manner when the vehicle is not moving,

a label for use with the stalk extender device with twistable label holder with means for giving the driver indication by label when twisted to the instrument on stalk position and which label is hidden from driver line of sight view when twisted to the instrument off stalk position,

altogether with means for giving to drivers an augmented and more reliable fully reversible control indicator active status for auxiliary vehicle equipment.

26. The invention of claim 25 whereby said instrument stalk mounting device is an interchangeable part with different first end diameter sizes and a single common second end standard diameter size with means to fit different makes and models of vehicles, with the second end or an opposing end standard diameter having means for further attachment devices.

27. The invention of claim 25 whereby said stalk extender device with twistable label holder is composed of snap-on part extensions which first end means of attachment upon the instrument stalk end mounting's outer-most standard diameter, with the second end or opposing end also having a snap-on part extension with means for additional attachment devices such as a second label holder and display device which is independent in twist-motion from the stalk motion.

28. The invention of claim 25 whereby said stalk extender with twistable label holder uses a top-end open clear plastic sleeve to gravity hold the active user selectable label which may have more than one available label contained at all times inside of the sleeve stored behind the actively used and exposed label.

29. The invention of claim 25 whereby said label gives label indicator active instrument status which is placed visible to the driver in the instrument on stalk twist position and furthermore, the label is not visible to the driver at the instrument off stalk twist position.

30. The invention of this patent is a form of add-on product for vehicles with a twist stalk instrument control which comprises the elements of:

a driver's right side instrument stalk end mounting device whose first end is of variable sized diameters to fit to different diameter stalks on different makes and models of vehicles, furthermore, its second end is of a standard size to accept standard extension parts,

a stalk extender device with twistable label holder whose first end attaches to the second end of said driver's right side instrument stalk end mounting device and whose second end has further standard diameter attachment snap-on joint points, with means for the stalk controlled instrument active position also being the auxiliary equipment label active position thus making the label clearly visible to the driver at line of sight from the individual driver's head position, furthermore, said stalk extender device has an integral twistable label holder device which holds the label in an interchangeable manner when the vehicle is not moving,

a label for use with the stalk extender device with twistable label holder with means to give driver indication by label when twisted to the instrument on stalk position and which label is hidden from driver line of sight view when twisted to the instrument off stalk position,

with means for giving to drivers an augmented and more reliable fully reversible control indicator active status.

31. The invention of claim 30 whereby said stalk mounting device mounts upon the driver's right side instrument stalk end, furthermore, it is made of different diameters with different first end diameter sizes and common second end standard diameter sizes with means to fit different makes and models of vehicles, with the second end or an opposing end standard diameter having means for further attachment devices.

32. The invention of claim 30 whereby the stalk extender device with twistable label holder is composed of snap-on part extensions which first end means of attachment upon the instrument stalk end mounting's outer-most standard diameter, with the second end or opposing end also having a snap-on part extension with means for additional attachment devices such as a second label holder and display device which is independent in twist-motion from the stalk motion.

33. The invention of claim 31 whereby said stalk extender with twistable label holder uses a top-end open clear plastic sleeve to gravity hold the active user selectable label which may have more than one available label contained at all times inside of the sleeve stored behind the actively used and exposed label.

34. The invention of this patent is a form of add-on product for vehicles with a twist stalk instrument control which comprises the elements of:

an instrument stalk mounting device whose first end is of a fixed sized diameter made of stretchable rubber to fit to different diameter stalks on different makes and models of vehicles, furthermore, it is inclusive on its opposing end or second end, of a continuing functional stalk extender device with twistable label holder whose second end has a means for a snap-on stub composing further standard diameter attachment snap-on joint points, with means for the stalk controlled instrument active position also being the auxiliary equipment label active position thus making the label clearly visible to the driver at line of sight from the individual driver's head position, furthermore, said stalk extender device has an integral twistable label holder device which holds the label in an interchangeable manner when the vehicle is not moving,

a label for use with the stalk extender device with twistable label holder with means to give driver line of sight indication by label when twisted to the instrument on stalk position and which label is hidden from driver line of sight view when twisted to the instrument off stalk position,

with means for giving to drivers an augmented and more reliable fully reversible control indicator active status.

35. The invention of claim 34 whereby said instrument stalk mounting device's second end's standard sized snap-on stub can accept a second twist knob with additional label holder device.

36. The invention of claim 34 whereby said instrument stalk mounting device's second end's standard sized snap-on stub can accept additional devices such as a second twist knob with an additional label holder device whose active position is independent of the stalk motion through means for independent twist action.

37. The invention of claim 34 whereby said stalk extender with twistable label holder uses a top-end open clear plastic sleeve to hold the active user selectable label which may have more than one available label contained at all times inside of the sleeve stored behind the actively used and exposed label.

38. The invention of claim 34 whereby said label gives label indicator active instrument status which is placed visible to the driver in the instrument on stalk twist position and furthermore, the label is not visible to the driver at the instrument off stalk twist position.

39. The invention of this patent which gives means for an augmented and fully reversible active control indicator status to a driver of a vehicle which comprises a mechanical attachment means for an already existing steering wheel column stalk control mechanism which is on the first end of a construction material of expandable, one-piece rubber to stretch to fit different diameters of make and model car stalk ends, furthermore, having a twist action which is in the same orientation as the stalk activated vehicle instrument, furthermore, the invention has a label holder on its second end clearly visible to the driver in line of sight which displays only one customer installation time chosen of several possible labels to warn the driver of auxiliary equipment active, only when the stalk is in the active stalk twist position, with the label obscured from driver's line of sight in the inactive stalk twist position, furthermore, the second end of this one-piece unit has a means for a snap-on attachment with a standard diameter.

40. The invention of claim 39 whereby a second twist knob with attached label holder has means for attachment on its first end of a snap-on connector to the second end of the aforementioned invention, and whose second end has means for snap-on attachment of additional user selectable units.

ABSTRACT

This invention consists of in the preferred embodiment of a device consisting of a rubber cap for instrument stalk (104) with variable diameters for different car makes and models, one or more stalk extender sections (106) of standard diameter, a lights on label (108) saying 'lights on!!!!', a snap-on twistable end with ball shelf (112), a ball string (116), a ball string length adjustor (120), a fuzzy lights on ball (124), which is an add-on device to existing motor vehicles to give an indication of a driver leaving a vehicle with the head-lights left in the on position. A first alternative embodiment is specifically designed for indicating to the driver that sports equipment is still loaded overhead on a roof-top sport's rack.

DRAWINGS

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